

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN RESPONSE

*To Senate resolution of February 28, 1893, relative to the use of the Pension Building for Sunday concerts.*

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MARCH 15, 1893.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, March 14, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the Senate, under date of the 28th ultimo, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Interior be requested to inform the Senate whether authority has been given for the use of the building of the Pension Office by any person or persons on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, for musical concerts, at which a pecuniary charge is made for admission.

In response I beg leave to submit herewith a copy of correspondence relating to the subject, from which it will be observed that permission to use the Pension Office for the purpose referred to in the resolution was expressly refused by the Secretary of the Interior.

The building has not been used on Sunday for such purpose.

Very respectfully,

GEO. CHANDLER,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, March 1, 1893.*

SIR: My attention has been called to the fact that it is the purpose of the inaugural committee to open the Pension Building on Sunday, the 5th instant, for one or more musical entertainments, at which a charge for admission will be made.

I have to inform you that, in granting the use of this building for the inaugural ball, it was not contemplated that the building should be open to the public on Sunday, and, as there will be opportunity on the

subsequent day, during which the building is at the disposal of the committee, to give the concerts referred to, the use of the Pension Building on Sunday for that purpose will not be permitted.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

Col. JAMES G. BERRET,  
*Chairman Inaugural Committee, Present.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, March 1, 1893.*

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Pensions for his information, and who will take such measures as may be necessary in order that the views herein expressed be carried into effect and that the Pension Building be closed to the public on Sunday the 5th instant.

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

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[Telegram.]

LAKEWOOD, N. J., *March 1, 1893.*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR:

I am strongly opposed to the use of the Pension Building for a Sunday concert on the 5th instant, and object to regarding such a thing as a feature of inauguration.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

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[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, March 1, 1893.*

Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND,  
*Lakewood, N. J.:*

Your telegram received. Orders were issued already forbidding the use of the Pension Building on Sunday, and I am gratified that this action is in accordance with your wishes.

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, March 1, 1893.*

SIR: Since my letter to you of this date, relative to the use of the Pension Office building for a musical entertainment on Sunday next, I have received a telegram from Mr. Cleveland, of which I inclose a copy, expressing his strong opposition to the use of the building for a Sunday concert, and objecting to such concert as a feature of the inauguration. I also inclose for your information a copy of my reply thereto.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

Col. JAMES G. BERRET,  
*Chairman Inaugural Committee, Present.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 2, 1893.*

SIR: Upon the receipt of your communication of March 1, forbidding the use of the Pension Building on Sunday for concerts of sacred music, as had been announced by the inaugural committee, the arrangements were suspended and all orders relating to the concerts were countermanded.

As chairman of the committee and in behalf of the executive committee I think it pertinent and proper that a statement of the facts should be made.

First of all it is to be said that care has been taken that no music should be rendered that had not been classified as "sacred music" by competent authority and well established usage.

In no other sense than this could the concerts be characterized as "musical entertainments."

The committee assumed that of the many thousand visitors in the city not more than a moiety of them could attend service in the churches, and that the concerts might be the occasion of devotion in some and a source of pleasure in others.

I may say further, that the committee could have no pecuniary interest in the matter.

Our receipts are such that a surplus will remain for the benefit of the poor of the District of Columbia, and they are the only persons, probably, who would be benefited by the charges for admission which we proposed to make.

I have deemed this explanation due to the gentlemen associated with me in conducting the inaugural ceremonies on the 4th of March, and remain,

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JAMES G. BERRET,  
*Chairman.*

HON. JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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